

# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China/Korea

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1. In early fall 1951 Soviet staff members working with the Chinese Communist Volunteers were calling back to Manchuria low-level Communist officers about to fight in Korea and giving them intensive training. A considerable effort was also being made to issue Communist units new Soviet-made weapons in order to make uniform the caliber of all weapons in use in Korea. At the same time Chinese Communist and North Korean troops in Korea were called back in turn to Pyongyang, Anbyon, and P'och'on<sup>1</sup> to be equipped with Soviet weapons, regrouped, and given a short period of training before being recommittd. This action was taken because, although Soviet weapons and ammunition had been given to various units in Korea, the troops were suffering heavy casualties owing to the wide variety of weapons in use and the troops' lack of skill in using these new weapons. By 6 November these measures had considerably improved the effectiveness and morale of the men at the front.
2. Between the end of October and mid-November about two divisions daily moved through the Peitayung (北 大 營) district of Muiden, one division entering the city and one going out. Those coming in apparently arrived from various local areas to receive training and to be regrouped. Firing practice was audible every day. Those leaving Peitayung all carried new equipment, and groups of artillery pieces, from three to six in a group, were frequently seen being pulled through the town to the railway station by tractors.

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3. After late September a large portion of important machinery in the Muiden

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arsenal was dismantled. The dismantling of designated items was finished by October and the machinery shipped northward to Tsitsihar early in November. In addition, a portion of the arsenal personnel was ordered north. The purpose of this move was to equip the North Manchurian arsenal for greater production and to escape United Nations air raids which might come in the event of a breakdown in the Korean cease-fire talks.

4. On the evening of 5 November several thousand land mines, which had been shipped from Mukden to Antung, exploded while being unloaded at the Antung railway station. The cause was unknown, but all the mines were destroyed and heavy damage was done to buildings near the railway station and to the roadbed. Over 200 railway employees and engineers who escorted the shipment were killed or wounded.

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5. As of 18 November, Chinese Communist forces in North China were comparatively weak. Previously, various hsien along the Peiping-Hankow railway in Peiping, Tientsin and northeastern Hopei had been garrisoned by units from the North China Army Group. Most of these troops, however, had gone to North Korea, and except for Peiping and Tientsin, where large forces were still being maintained, all other places were garrisoned by local hsien security forces. The 61 and 62 Armies were in Peiping, Tientsin and along the railway from Peiping to Shanhaikuan, while the 59 Army allegedly was in Taiyuan.

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1. Comment. The coordinates for Anbyon, or Anpyon, may be 127-32, 39-03. Those for P'och'on are probably either 128-18, 41-30 or 129-38, 41-05.

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